

SOTERIOLOGY

101 v2

Matthew John

SOTERIOLOGY

10 REASONS WHY I REJECT REFORMED THEOLOGY (CALVINISM) & BELIEVE GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED BY HIS LOVE AND PROVISION FOR ALL

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Matthew John

mattyjohn14.6@mail.com

SECTION ONE - ORIGINS & PREACHERS

Part 1 - ORIGINS

What is Calvinism?

The Protestant theological system of John Calvin and his successors, which develops Luther's doctrine of justification by faith alone into an emphasis on the grace of God and centers on the doctrine of predestination.

Where did Calvinism come from?

The doctrines known today as Calvinism are named after a Protestant Reformer called John Calvin. However, they did not originate with this man but many centuries earlier with a man called Augustine Aurelius, born AD 354 in Thagaste (Algeria).

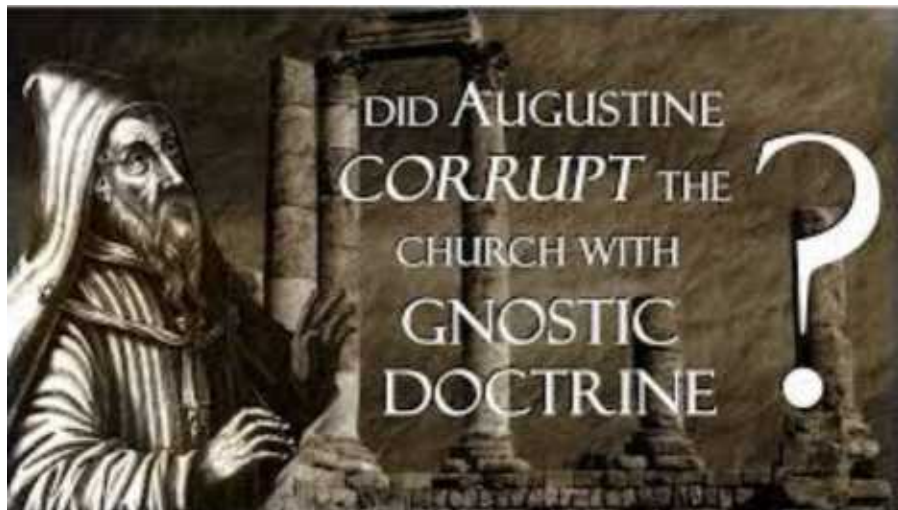
Augustine had a Christian mother but a Pagan father. He himself followed the Manichean religion for many years, a syncretistic form of Gnosticism which taught a dualistic view of good and evil.

Augustine was later ordained into the Christian church in his native Thagaste and became a prolific & influential writer and teacher.

Augustine introduced the foundational doctrine upon which all reformed theology/Calvinism is built. That is that mankind lost his free-will after the fall of Adam, especially and specifically in his ability to obey the gospel. This was called natural inability in early

church history and is more often known today as total depravity or total inability.

This doctrine did not exist in Christianity for three centuries after the time of Christ leading up to Augustine's ministry.



Pastor Leighton Flowers, Soteriology 101 broadcast (1.12.18) -
“Even John Calvin, Lorraine Bodner & Sam Storms and many Reformed scholars and historians will admit that Augustine was the first to teach a ‘Calvinistic’ soteriological worldview...”

‘Chosen But Free’ by Dr Norman Geisler (Appendix 3, origins of extreme Calvinism) - “.the whole of the Christian tradition up to the reformation stands against the characteristic views of Calvinism. Were it not for one significant blip in pre-reformation history, there would have been no notable “Calvinists” for the first 1500 years of the church. This exception is found in the late writings of St. Augustine. As a result of his controversy with the Pelagians (who emphasized free will at the expense of grace), Augustine overreacted with an emphasis on grace at the expense of free will.”

Augustine did not immediately begin to teach natural inability after his conversion, but rather conformed to the orthodox Christian position that argued against the Manichean Gnostics, to whom he previously belonged, in favor of man's liberty of will.

Early Augustine (Debating the Manichaeian Gnostics) - “We Christians assert the liberty of the will, whereby our actions are rendered either moral or immoral, and keep it free from every bond of necessity, on account of the righteous judgement of God.”

Isaac De Beausobre, Protestant Theologian (The Christian Examiner Vol. 1) - “Augustine defended free-will so long as he had to do with the Manicheans. But when he began to dispute with the Pelagians he changed his system. Then he denied that kind of freedom which before he had defended; and, so far as I am able to judge, his sentiments no longer differed from theirs [The Manicheans] concerning the servitude of the will. He ascribed the servitude to the corruption which original sin brought into our nature; whereas the Manicheans to an evil quality eternally inherent in matter.”

Freewill is a scriptural principle and the very word itself occurs very many times.

Leviticus 22:21 And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.

I highly recommend the work of Dr. Ken Wilson in his book 'The Foundation of Augustinian - Calvinism' to learn more about Augustine's history and doctrine.

Gnosticism & Augustine

Augustine was the originator of this soteriological system (Calvinism) within Christianity, as no single Christian preceding him taught anything like it, but rather they universally stood against this position as it belonged to the heathen.

“The free-will and natural ability of man were held by the whole church... Natural inability was to that of the pagan philosophers, the Gnostics & the Manicheans.” - **Views in Theology 1836 pg.56**

We know that Augustine spent 9 years as a devout Manichean Gnostic before converting to be a protoCatholic. This is the true source of the soteriology which Augustine, after centuries of resistance from the early church, brought into Christendom.

John K Ryan, Introduction to Confessions of St Augustine - “The two great intellectual influences upon Augustine prior to his conversion were Manicheism & Greek philosophy.”

Harry Conn, the book 'Sin & Holiness' - “Augustine, after studying the philosophy of Manes, the Persian philosopher, brought this doctrine into the Christian church from Manicheism.”

1. When we consider that all born again children of God have the Holy Spirit leading us into all truth [John 16:13-15], surely, we would not expect centuries long gaps of untaught doctrine, most especially in regard to salvation. I expect to find all true Biblical Christian teaching to exist in every generation. Due to its absence from early Christianity and having true origins in Paganism, this is the first reason why I reject Reformed Theology.

Part 2 - PREACHERS

Augustine

The Bible is filled with warnings about false teachers and false prophets:

2 Peter 2:1-3, Romans 16:17, 1 John 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:3, Matthew 7:15, 2 John 1:7, 1 Timothy 4:1, Galatians 1:8 and so on...

Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

I take these warnings very seriously and I always examine the doctrines that any elder teaches against the scriptures [Acts 17:11].



There are some overly concerning doctrines of Augustine which cause me to beware his other teachings. For example, Hebrews 6:2 tells us

that the doctrine of Baptism is a quite simple and fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith and that we as believers cannot go on to perfection without understanding such basic things.

And yet, Augustine did not understand the doctrine of Baptism at all:

Augustine - "Let no one promise infants who have not been baptized a sort of middle place of happiness between damnation and Heaven"
The Soul and Its Origin, Patrologiae Latinae, Migne, 44:475

Augustine - "Infants who are not baptized will be damned." **History of the Christian Church Vol.8**

Chosen But Free (Appendix 3) - ".his [Augustine] long held belief that infants could be regenerated apart from any free choice on their part [By baby sprinkling] ."

Acts 8:36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

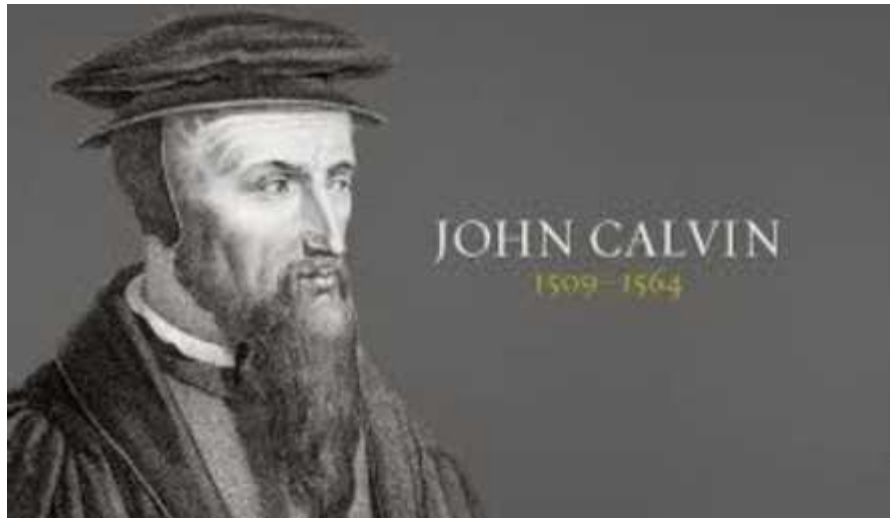
Scripture teaches very clearly that Baptism is for believers & no example of a baby being baptized is found. Also teaching that Baptism "regenerates" is works salvation and a false gospel.

Furthermore, most of Catholic theology is attributed to the teachings of Augustine, often referred to as the "Father of Catholic Theology". An example is the Catholic doctrine of original sin which the Bible does not teach: **Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.** (See also Deuteronomy 24:16)

Calvin

John Calvin, the French Reformed Catholic for whose name sake the doctrines of reformed theology have come to be known, was a devout follower of Augustine as demonstrated by this popular quote "Augustine is so holy with me, that if I wish to write a confession of my faith I could do so with all fullness and satisfaction to myself out of his writings."

John Calvin, known as the *Protestant Pope*, also taught infant baptism "Infants cannot be denied baptism without direct violation of the will of God." - **History of the Christian Church Vol.8**



2. The Bible outlines for us clearly that certain doctrines (Hebrews 6) are foundational to our religion. Not being able to understand these prevents a person from growing to perfection in the faith. As Augustine & Calvin (& Martin Luther who also was an Augustinian monk, reformer and teacher of the same doctrines) clearly did not understand these, there is no reason to trust their understanding of the rest of scripture and this is the second reason I reject reformed theology.

Side Note: it is well documented that both Martin Luther and John Calvin were drunkards.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Charles Finney, lectures on systematic theology 1851 - “This doctrine [Calvinism] is a stumbling block both to the church and to the world, infinitely dishonorable to God & the human intellect, and should be banished from every pulpit, and from every formula of doctrine, and from the world. It is a relic of heathen philosophy, foisted in among the doctrines of Christianity by Augustine”

Part 3 - PROTESTANTS Vs CHRISTIANS

It is also prudent to note that John Calvin, as well as Martin Luther and other of the Reformed Catholics, heavily persecuted Christians such as the Anabaptists, who had no heritage from the Catholic Church.

It is no shock when you consider that Luther and Calvin were both Augustinian monks. Augustine taught that those who disagreed with his doctrine (and the proto-Catholics to which he belonged) should be burned:

Augustine (between 393-398) - "if the kings of this world could legislate against pagans and poisoners, they could do so against heretics as well."

In a postscript to a memorandum in 1531 to persecute Anabaptists for practicing believer's baptism and not sprinkling infants like the Roman & Protestant Catholics, **Martin Luther** said:

"I assent. Although it seems cruel to punish them with the sword..."

John Calvin followed this thinking and said:

"Whoever shall now contend that it is unjust to put heretics and blasphemers to death, knowingly and willingly incur their guilt." - Defense of Orthodox Faith against the Prodigious Errors of the Spaniard Michael Servetus, published in early 1554

The Bible does not teach us to kill people who disagree with us. As for heretics the Bible says:

Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject...

These reformers did not ever completely leave their Catholic mother and continued to persecute Christians as Rome had done for centuries. They abused Old Testament commandments for the theocratic nation of Israel to justify their crimes. There is no compulsion in Christianity:

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Who Were the Protestants?

First, we must understand the Roman Catholic Church that the Protestant reformers came from.

The Bible prophesied of the Catholic Church in Rome centuries before it existed. Please read Revelation Chapter 17:

1. Verse 1 describes a great whore. This contrasts with the Bride

of Christ [Eph 5:25 + Rev 19:7], His church. This means whoever is about to be described is *not* Christ's church!

2. Verse 2 emphasizes Kings and wine. The Roman Catholic Church crowned Kings for centuries and is the only religion specifically known for drinking alcoholic wine in its sacraments.

3. Verse three speaks of names of blasphemy. All Catholics, whether Orthodox, Roman or Protestant to this day use names of blasphemy. They are called pope [1Tim 2:5], Priest [1Pet 2:9], Father [Matt 23:9], or reverend [Psa 111:9] for example.

4. In Verse 4 we get a description of excessive wealth and two specific colours, scarlet and purple. This is a perfect description of the Roman Catholic Church.

5. Verse 5 calls this false church the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS". Only one church is called mother, the Roman Catholic. But who are the Harlots? We will return to this thought.

6. In verse six we are told that this false church will be drunk on the blood of the saints, and indeed the Roman Catholics can lay claim to that over the centuries. Here are two quotes, one from a Catholic, and one from a Protestant:

Cardinal Hoseas, Catholic president of the council of Trent 1554 -

"If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of a man of any sect, shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be purer or surer than the Anabaptists since there have been these for the past twelve hundred years that have been more generally punished or persecuted." [2Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.]

"Were it not that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past twelve hundred years, they would swarm in greater number than all the Reformers." - **Martin Luther, Protestant reformer** [1John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.]

7. The last connecting dot is in verse 9 where this church's location is given, 7 mountains. There is one city famous for being built on 7 hills or 7 mounts - Rome!



So, the Roman Catholic Church was foretold to come (including the Orthodox Catholics which split off in 1054) as a fake version of the true church of Christ. Indeed, it wasn't until Constantine in the fourth century that it came into existence. But it is an eclectic false form of Christianity incorporating many aspects of the pagan religions in existence throughout the Roman Empire at that time. This is because Constantine was seeking unity throughout his empire. But real Christians did not join, as they knew Christianity cannot be legislated and they would not compromise their beliefs to merge with pagan practices. As such they were deemed heretics and the persecution, beginning with the Jews in the first century, then the Roman Emperors such as Nero, continued under the Roman Catholics, just as the Bible foretold.

So, who are the Protestants? They are the Harlots of Revelation 17:5. Scores of denominations split off and formed out of the Roman church and brought with them many of the false practices and traditions of their whore mother. Most still practice baby sprinkling. Many wear long dresses and use names of blasphemy. All to some degree teach heresy and sadly while reformers like Martin Luther paid lip service to Faith Alone, they never really understood it or believed it as I will demonstrate next.

Faith Alone Vs Works

Strangely, John Calvin claimed to agree with Martin Luther's assessment that we are saved by faith alone in Christ alone (the Gospel believed and taught by Christians since the time of Christ, throughout the centuries until today, independent of the Greek

& Roman Churches and the protestant reformers) and yet taught that you had to be a member of the universal church & take part in sacraments for salvation (Catholic doctrines) which of course are works:

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...

John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion (Volume II) - "The corporeal presence which the nature of the sacrament requires that it not only gives our minds undoubted assurance of eternal life but also secures the immortality of our flesh."

"I believe in the holy Catholic church whence flow the perpetual remission of sins in the full restoration to eternal life... moreover beyond the pale of the church no forgiveness of sins, no salvation can be hoped for hence the abandonment of the church is always fatal." - **John Calvin**

These are doctrines which were taught by Calvin's self-assigned mentor & father of Catholic theology -Augustine. A man which clearly did not understand the basics of Christianity, was corrupted by pagan philosophy, and is considered the father of the largest apostate cult in the world:

Augustine quote - "The Catholic Church alone is the body of Christ....Outside this body the Holy Spirit

giveth life to no one... he is not a partaker of divine love who is the enemy of unity. Therefore, they have not the Holy Ghost who are outside the Church." **The Other Side of Calvinism, Laurence M. Vance**

Even Martin Luther who is famed by *sola fide* taught in many of his writings, right up until his last 'the Jew's and their lies' that baptism was required for salvation. He taught that 'grace' was 'infused' at infant sprinkling (baptism is immersion and he did not understand this).

3. The Protestants, or reformed Catholics, are not real Christians (I do not mean that people today cannot be saved and end up, through ignorance, sitting in the pews of a protestant church). They are the

Harlot children of the Mother whore, the fake bride. Like their mother they have murdered Christians. They still practice in varying degrees the heretical traditions of their wicked mother and they pay lip service without understanding to faith alone. This is the third reason I reject reformed theology.

“Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not Reformers. These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers, known under various names in different countries, are entirely independent of and distinct from the Greek and Roman churches, and have an unbroken continuity from apostolic days down through the centuries. Throughout this long period they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands; yet they swerved not from the New Testament faith, doctrine and practice.”—King, William C. Crossing the Centuries. Springfield, MA: Editorial Associates, 1912

(To further clarify matters there are today 2 types of Baptist. Those which are successional and those which are reformed. The former are real Christians, the latter are protestants which adopted many Baptist practices but teach reformed theology.)

Part 4 - PREDESTINATION

What is the Doctrine of Predestination?

Predestination is a doctrine of Calvinism dealing with the question of the control that God exercises over the world. In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, God "freely and unchangeably ordained whatsoever comes to pass."

But what does the Bible say?

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

My first refutation of this doctrine is that, unless you believe as John Calvin did that God is the author of sin, despite scripture, then sin disproves this doctrine. Sin is our direct violation of God's will. When you teach that everything is determined by God, you unavoidably make Him the author of our sins. (Make no mistake, neither I nor any

Christian believes God is deistic, He is acting in all things and is all powerful. But this is not the same as causing all things.)

Methodius, The Banquet of the Ten Virgins Discourse 8 - “Those Pagans who decide that man has no free-will, but say that he is governed by the unavoidable necessities of fate, are guilty of impiety towards God himself, making Him out to be the cause and author of human evils.”

Additionally, Jesus Christ himself spoke of alternate possibilities in time when He rebuked the unbelieving cities:

Matthew 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. *Clearly exhaustive divine determinism is nonsense.*

Predestination Means God Authors Sin

Following logically from the presupposition that mankind's will is corrupted and void of any kind of liberty, Calvin, like Augustine before him, taught that God is the author of sin:

Institutes, book 1, Ch. 17, 5 - “I concede more - that thieves and murderers, and other evil-doers, are instruments of divine providence, being employed by the Lord Himself.”

Institutes, book 1, Ch. 18, 1 - "That men do nothing save at the secret instigation of God, and do not discuss and deliberate on anything but what He has previously decreed with Himself and brings to pass by His secret direction..."

This is still taught by prominent Calvinists today. **Dr. James White**, when asked if God decrees the rape, abuse and murder of children answered - “Yes” **Interview on Bible Answer Man, 2003.**

Scripture of course refutes this completely - Proverbs 6:16-19, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 3:9, Titus 1:2, and so on.

Jeremiah 19:5 They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind

There must be a distinction made between what God does predestine to come to pass [Isaiah 46:10] such as Christ's atoning sacrifice

[1Peter 1:20] or the coming judgement [Revelation 20:12], and what God wills to be done but is left to the free will of man to perform:

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.



Justin Martyr, First Apology Ch.43 - “We have learned from the prophets and we hold it to be true, that punishment, chastisement and rewards are rendered according to the merit of each man’s actions. Otherwise, if all things happen by fate, then nothing is our own power. For if it is predestined that one man is good and another evil, then the first is not deserving of praise or the other blamed. Unless humans have the power of avoiding evil and choosing the good by free choice, they are not accountable for their actions, whatever they may be.”

What Objection Would a Calvinist Offer?

Those who teach Calvinism today, for the most part, are not so foolish or wicked to fail to address this obvious problem with their theology. They have produced a philosophy called compatibilism, in which they say that while God does determine everything and we have no freewill, we are still accountable for the sins God made us commit. This of course is logically fallacious and unjust, but they offer some scriptures to support this:

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have

crucified and slain...

Acts 4:27-28 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, ²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

These scriptures refer to the atonement of Christ being determined and in no way teach exhaustive divine determinism. God, according to His foreknowledge of the wicked intentions of men worked out the greatest act of good the world has ever known, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Just as God was able to do with Joseph [Gen 50:20], God is so powerful, so wonderful He can turn evil to good [Rom 8:28].

There is a deeper philosophy which anchors the Calvinist in this view of determinism. They believe that God can only know things which he has predetermined, and that a free creature would be outside of His omniscience, or control. This of course is what happens when you rest on human thinking and not on God's word [Prov 3:5-6]. The Bible teaches nothing of the sort and the God of Calvinism is a lesser God than the real God of Heaven and Earth. Even I can know things I have not determined. When you hear a Calvinist use their buzz word 'sovereign' regarding God, this is what they mean.

"God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, 'What doest thou?' Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so." — **A.W. Tozer, [The Knowledge of the Holy](#)**

Predestination & the Elect

Calvinism teaches that God has already predetermined who will believe & be saved before He made the world as opposed to foreknowing who would believe and predestinating believers to be saved.

Q. if everything is predetermined including who shall be saved, why

pray [James 5:16]? Prayer would avail nothing if all is determined, obviously.

What does the Bible say?

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit

All of these passages teach us nothing of God predetermining those who will believe, but rather that according to His foreknowledge of who would believe He predetermined they would be forgiven, saved, gifted eternal life, adopted into His family and conformed to the image of His son (amongst many more wonderful and gracious things).

But if it were true that God had already predestined those who would believe and be saved then this would mean that most people would be created solely to be burned in hell for all eternity with no savior and no hope! This would make God unimaginably evil. Calvin himself thought this doctrine to be dreadful:

Institutes, book 3, Ch. 23, 7 - "The decree, I admit, is dreadful; but it is impossible to deny that God foreknew what the end of man was to be before He made him, and so foreknew because He had so ordained by His decree."

Furthermore, this would mean that even infants who die and unborn children who perish in the womb, who had not yet committed any sin, nor been given chance to exercise any choice in life, would be damned to hell by God:

Institutes, book 3, Ch. 33, 6 - "God arranges all things by His sovereign counsel, in such a way that individuals are born, who are doomed from the womb to certain death and are to glorify Him by their destruction." - **John Calvin**

And this is taught by prominent Calvinist teachers today:

John Piper - “Before you were born or before you did anything good or bad God decided whether to save you or not.”

But the Bible does not teach this! There is an abundance of scriptures that show us infants who die go to Heaven [Job. 3:11-17, Jer 19:3-5 + 31:17 + 2Sam. 12:22-23x]:

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, **Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**

Additionally, the bible teaches us that we are not born spiritually dead as the Catholic Church teaches with their ‘original sin’ heresy, but rather we die spiritually when we are of accountable age and we sin:

Romans 7:9 **For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.**

Thankfully, this is not true. God is all loving and offers salvation to all [John 3:16], as we will prove continually, addressing each doctrine of Calvinism individually.

At this point I will simply demonstrate from scripture that God has a book of life and all who’s names are written in it are saved from wrath & judgement [Revelation 20:15]. God gives a warning to all who would take away from His Word (The Holy Bible) that He will take their name out of His book of life thus damning them [Revelation 22:19].

This of course means that their name was written in it if it can be removed! We know God will not take salvation from one of His children [John 6:37], thus the names of all people are written in His book of life from the foundation of the world. They are removed when people become reprobate [Jeremiah 6:30] or die unfaithful.

Revelation 22:19 **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

- God loves everybody who comes into this world - **1 John 4:16**
John 3:16 **For God so loved the world...**

- God’s love can be lost by people because of their rejection of Him, and with it hope of salvation: **Hosea 9:15****All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more.**

- But concerning those of us who are saved and become His children, we are loved for eternity: **Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

What Objection Would a Calvinist Offer?

A Calvinist in my experience honestly believes their doctrine is biblical and they often (not always) have a scripture to support their belief. But remember, even Mormons have a scripture for being baptized for the dead, but that is because when you twist scripture and take it out of context you can make the Bible say almost anything.

So, let us see what scripture a Calvinist would offer in support of God predetermining who will believe:

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

We have already read in scripture [[Rom 8:29](#), [Eph 1:5](#), [I Pet 1:2](#)] that God has ordained eternal life to those He foreknows will believe. When you read this scripture from Acts, it makes perfect sense in this context and does not teach that God has ordained or predetermined who will believe.

The next scripture a Calvinist will offer is:

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

The “day of evil” is mentioned in only one other place in the bible - Jeremiah 17:17-18 and is speaking of a temporal destruction. The context of the passage is a warning that wicked people will receive judgement. Proverbs constantly emphasizes free choice and the consequences thereof:

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord

The context destroys their interpretation and the passage is not about spiritual, eternal judgement but temporal.

And lastly, they might say 1 Peter 2:8 shows that God appointed people to be disobedient.

1 Peter 2:7-8 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Providing this verse in context, we see in verse 7 that first is mentioned the disobedience, then we see that *because* they are disobedient it is appointed that Jesus Christ and His Word are made a stumbling block unto them.

My final scriptural refutation of this reformed doctrine is that Jesus was astonished at the unbelief of people after hearing the truth preached and miracles performed. How or why would He marvel at their unbelief if it were predetermined by Him before the world began?

Mark 6:6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

I highly recommend the book 'Determined to Believe' by Prof. John Lennox for more on determinism

4. This kind of pre-deterministic worldview conforms more to Islam or a materialistic atheism than it does to Biblical Christianity. It also, when taken to its full logical course, makes God the author of sin. This is the fourth reason why I reject reformed theology.

David Bentley Hart, The Doors of the Sea 2005 pg.99 -

“Theological determinism requires us to believe & love a God whose good ends will be realized not only in spite of - but entirely by way of - every cruelty, every fortuitous misery, every catastrophe, every betrayal, every sin the world has ever known... It is a strange thing indeed to seek peace in a world rendered morally intelligible at the cost of a God rendered morally loathsome.”

Part 5 - ARMINIANISM

What is Arminianism?

Arminianism originated with a reformer called Joseph Arminius, who was in fact a Calvinist: “For I affirm that in the interpretation of the scriptures Calvin is incomparable. And that his commentaries are more to be valued than anything that is handed down to us in the writings of the fathers.” - **Letter from Joseph Arminius to Sebastian Egbertszoon 3rd May 1607**

Arminianism is presented as the only alternative view to Calvinism to create a false dichotomy:

“There are two main camps of theology within Christianity today: Arminianism and Calvinism. Calvinism is a system of biblical interpretation taught by John Calvin. Calvin lived in France in the 1500's at the time of Martin Luther who sparked the Reformation.” - www.calvinistcorner.com

Dr. Leighton Flowers, Director of Apologetics for Texas Baptist and Professor of Theology for Trinity Seminary, former Calvinist: “I realized classical Wesleyan Arminianism was not the only scholarly alternative to the Calvinistic interpretation. I was so saturated by Calvinistic preachers and authors, the only thing I knew about the opposing views is what they taught me. Thus, I had been led to believe the only alternative to Calvinism was Arminianism. Notable Calvinistic teachers seemed to almost always paint all non-Calvinistic scholars as holding to this perspective. Once I realized **I had kind of been misled** on this point, I was more open to consider other interpretations more objectively.”

False Teaching

To summarize in brief the doctrines of Wesleyan-Arminianism which I object to:

- 1. If man can choose to accept the free gift of salvation of his own volition, then it must follow that he can also choose to surrender this gift (eternal life).*

I do not believe that the new man born again of the spirit can ever desire to be unborn [2 Corinthians 5:17]. Even if the old man, which still exists and cannot be reformed [Ephesians 4:22] could hypothetically desire such, God promised eternal life to all who trust Him, & eternal life cannot be shortened! This doctrine of Arminianism would make God a liar if it were true, which it is not [Titus 1:2]. I believe that once we are saved, we are always saved:

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

2. Another common doctrine amongst Wesleyan-Arminianism today is that a Christian can lose their salvation if they were to backslide in to an exceeding sinful lifestyle or that if they were to commit a sin such as to deny Christ, as Peter did [Matthew 26:34], that Christ will deny you before the father [Matthew 10:33] which they take to mean that you have lost your salvation. Firstly, many saints in both old and new testaments backslid without losing their salvation. For example, King Saul who at the end of his life was called an enemy of God by the prophet Samuel and yet also told he would be in heaven when he died [1 Samuel 28:16-19].

Secondly, denying Christ does not cost you your salvation, it costs you rewards [1 Corinthians 3:14-15]. Would anybody suggest the Apostle Peter was unsaved because he denied Christ? No. I reiterate, I believe in the eternal security of the believer:

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

"Calvinism emphasis the Divine Sovereignty and free grace. Arminianism emphasizes human responsibility. One restricts the saving grace to the elect, the other extends it to all men on condition of faith. Both are right in what they assert, both are wrong in what they deny. If one important truth is presented at the exclusion of the other truth of equal importance, it becomes an error and loses its hold upon the conscience. The Bible gives us a theology which is more human than Calvinism, and more Divine then Arminianism, and more Christian then either of them." - **Philip Schaff, theologian & historian**

5. Arminianism is a false theological system which exists within the Calvinistic paradigm and is presented deceptively as the only alternative to Calvinism. I am not an Arminian. This is the fifth reason I reject reformed theology.

Eusebius, The Cause of God & Truth 1838 pg.502 - "The Devil in his oracles hangs all things upon fate, and taking away that which is in our power, and arises of self-motion of free-will... brings this also into bondage of necessity."

**THIS CONCLUDES SECTION ONE - ORIGINS AND PREACHERS
& THE FIRST 5 REASONS I REJECT REFORMED THEOLOGY**

SECTION TWO - DOCTRINES & SUMMARY

What are the doctrines of 'Grace'?

Calvinism is best understood by the acronym T.U.L.I.P

T - Total Inability

U - Unconditional Election

L - Limited Atonement

I - Irresistible Grace

P - Perseverance of the Saints

Part 6 - TOTAL INABILITY

This doctrine is the foundation upon which the rest of this theological system is built. Remember this comes from Augustine and the Pagans & teaches that because of mankind's sinful nature and resulting spiritual death he is unable to understand & believe the gospel.

What scripture will a Calvinist use to support this doctrine?

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him

This scripture teaches us that if God draws us to Him, we can seek after Him. This is how our fallen state is overcome for us by God.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

This scripture teaches us that this 'drawing' of men to God is applied to everybody. Everybody is enabled by God to come to Him for salvation.

So, scripture teaches that we are not left in our fallen state unable to seek after God. On the contrary we see that everybody is drawn, and this overcomes our fallen state.

This does not mean everybody is saved, nor does this teach that everybody will come just because they can.

God also provides us with two general revelations to stimulate us

further to seek him. The first is nature itself which reveals there is a creator:

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

And the second general revelation is our own conscience:

Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man...

Romans 2:14-15 ¹⁴For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Why don't people come to Christ then if they are able to?

John 3:17-19 ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (See also 2Peter 3:4-7 where we learn people are "willingly ignorant" of the truth)

Sadly, people love darkness rather than light because of their own evil deeds, this is why many will not respond to God's call and be saved.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

But those who do respond will be led to His special revelation, His Word. (Biblical examples are the Ethiopian of Acts 8 + Cornelius of Acts 10)

God further commands that we who are His saved, born again children go out and compel the lost to come to Christ for salvation:

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

(We Christians have been given the great commission [Mark. 16:16] and the ministry of reconciliation [2Corinth. 5:18] because Jesus left us as lights appealing to the lost [2Corinth. 4:1-2] . But most of all God's own Son entered His creation and is the center of His-Story [John. 1:14] !)

All this to seek and save the lost. God has not forsaken any who come into this world nor has he only loved a few special pre-elect.

Jude 22-23 ²² And of some have compassion, making a difference:²³ And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Scriptures Supporting Our Ability to Seek God

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you

We can ask God to save us - John 4:10 + Romans 10:13

We can seek after God - Proverbs 8:17, Isaiah 55:3 + Acts 17:27
Jesus is the door to salvation - John 10:9

These scriptures show we can seek after God and that if we do, He promises we will find Him! But sadly, many do not seek and do not find:

Matthew 7:13-14 ¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

And finally, we have commandments to obey the Gospel:

Command - Mark 1:15 ¹⁵And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Judgement for not obeying - 2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

We are held responsible for not obeying the gospel by God. This means we are able to respond or we are not response-able and any judgement from God would thus be unjust. God is just and thus we can respond!

Psalm 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

An Example from Scripture

The first salvation in the Bible is a great picture of redemption for us all (soteriology) as taught biblically. Adam and Eve are saved by Jesus Christ in Eden [Gen. 3:8/]. Let us look at this example and see what we can learn from this first precedent in scripture:

1. Adam means Mankind [Gen. 5:2/] & Eve means the mother of all living [Gen. 3:20/], they are perfect representatives of us all regarding sin and salvation [Rom. 5:12-21/].
2. Adam and Eve sin and fall from Grace [Gen. 3:6/].
3. They die spiritually [Gen. 2:17/] & are hell bound [Rev. 21:8/].
4. They become ashamed of themselves & try to cover their sin by their own works [Gen. 3:7/].
5. They hide from Jesus/God [Gen. 3:8/].
6. Jesus called to them [Gen. 3:9/].
7. And they answered Him [Gen. 3:10-13/].
8. He taught them the Gospel [Gen. 3:14-15/].
9. And they were clothed in the righteousness of Christ [Gen. 3:21/].

(See also the parable of the prodigal son - Luke 15:11-32 “¹⁷And when he came to himself.”)

This is a great picture of all mankind being able to answer God's call. In the next chapter we see the first man refuse. This passage of scripture shows us that man must meet a condition for election!

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?

One Last Objection

“Doesn’t the Bible teach us that unsaved people cannot understand spiritual things, how can they understand and believe the gospel unless God saves & regenerates them first?”

Yes the Bible does teach us that unsaved people who are spiritually dead cannot understand spiritual things - **1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Answer - We spirit filled children of God have the power through the Holy Spirit in us to help them understand and believe:

Acts 8:30-31 ³⁰And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeest? ³¹And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. The ‘order of salvation’ is explicitly clear in the Bible, we must receive Christ and believe on Him and then we are saved.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name...
(Receive -> Become)

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (Believe ^ Have life)

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise
(Believe -> Saved)

Calvinist’s teaching that people must be saved (regenerated) before

they can believe have the cart before the horse. They are also teaching that the Gospel, a work of the Holy Spirit, is not powerful enough to save [Romans 1:16], and that an additional work of the Holy Spirit is required. *They're wrong!*

Recognitions of Clement of Rome 111. 23. V. 8. IX. 30 - "For no other reason does God punish the sinner either in the present or in the world to come, except because He knows the sinner was able to conquer but neglected to gain the victory."

Tertullian, Doctrine of the will pg.61 - "No reward can be justly bestowed, no punishment can be justly inflicted, upon him who is good or bad by necessity, and not by his own choice."

6. Total Inability is demonstrably false from scripture alone, and with the origins of this doctrine being of the Manicheans this is the sixth reason why I reject reformed theology. Additionally. Teaching that people cannot obey the gospel is declaring war on God. It stops seekers from seeking. It causes youths raised in Calvinism to run to the world and say, "if I'm elect, I will just start believing one day" and it completely demotivates people from evangelizing. People will not just magically start believing one day, they must have a Christian teach them the gospel: **Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith.**



From the Spirit of Antichrist & attacks God's Justice!

Part 7 - Unconditional Election

This doctrine teaches that there is no condition whatsoever to salvation but rather that God has chosen people to be saved arbitrarily before the world began, and His election must be arbitrary because God is no respecter of persons [Rom. 2:11]. For me, this is counter intuitive and honestly quite foolish. God is not random.

This doctrine affirms correctly that God is sovereign and can choose to

save whomever He wills. It also correctly affirms That God is not obligated to save anybody. What I call into question here is how God elects those He saves according to scripture, because as I will show clearly it is *not* unconditional.

Scriptures a Calvinist Thinks Support Unconditional Election

What scripture leads a Calvinist to believe this doctrine? They turn to Romans 9:11-13

Romans 9:11-13 ¹¹ (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) ¹²It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. ¹³As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

At first glance this scripture seems to support the doctrine of unconditional election and seems very cold and callous from God. But this scripture is referring to Genesis 25:23 & Malachi 1:3 and is a reference to two nations, not two unborn children. This scripture is teaching about God's corporate election in relation to the nation of Israel and not individual salvation (After all, Esau never served Jacob as a person, but later as a nation).

They continue in Romans 9 with verse 15

Romans 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Again, this is a quote by Paul from Exodus 33:19 and is again referring to the nation of Israel being shown mercy.

And finally, in Romans 9:21

Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

And yet again this is a quote from Jeramiah 18:1-6 and is another reference to Israel the nation, not individual persons regarding their salvation.

This can be done with any heresy, whether Catholic, Mormon or Calvinist. Context always defeats error.

Condition to Salvation - The Scriptures

There are an overwhelming abundance of scriptures teaching us there is one condition God has placed upon individuals for them to be elected to salvation. In fact, the question “what must I do to be saved” is directly asked in Acts 16:

Acts 16:30-31 ³⁰And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

The answer is as plain as the nose on my face! And more.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

If -> Then

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Condition -> Result

Job 33:26²⁶He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

Ask -> Receive

So why is this doctrine taught and believed by anybody in the face of such clear refutations in scripture? Calvinism teaches that if we put our faith in Christ of our own volition and call upon the name of the LORD for salvation, that this would be a work. However, the Bible tells us many times that asking for something from God does not make it any less of a gift:

Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

The Bible is always contrasting meritorious works of the law with Faith, and never equating them: **Galatians 2:16** Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ.

The Calvinist further confuses themselves by turning to Ephesians 2:8-9 and misinterpreting the meaning and making faith the gift in this passage, something they cannot support with any other scripture:

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Let us see what John Calvin himself had to say about the ‘gift’ in this scripture:

Calvin’s commentaries, vol. 11, 145, emphasis mine - “he does not mean that *faith* is the gift of God.”

I have never had any trouble understanding the meaning of this passage and always interpreted it the same way as those who hold to a provisional soteriology:

- “For by grace ye are saved” means that we are saved when we do not deserve it. Only because of God’s love and mercy are we saved from hell for our sins.
- “through faith” means that we receive this salvation by putting our faith in Christ, again, this is a condition to salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- “and that not of yourselves” means that we cannot save ourselves.
- “It is the gift of God” what is regularly referred to as the gift of God in scripture? Eternal life aka

salvation:

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

- “Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Means, again, that we cannot save ourselves. We must not trust in our own works to be saved.

Seems simple and jibes with the rest of scripture, no wresting of the passage is required to understand it clearly. In fact, this passage is contrasting faith with works, not equating them, as Paul is always careful to do in his epistles.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the 'gift of God' has come upon all men [Rom. 5:12-21] and thus if the gift was faith then everybody would believe and be saved. No, rather the gift is eternal life and like any gift it must be accepted, that is what this passage is teaching us. Ephesians 2:8-9 is teaching us *how* to accept the gift and be saved. By teaching unconditional election I fear the Calvinist is perverting the gospel and damaging their ability to evangelize!

Calvinist Bad Grammar

If we break Eph2:8-9 down and examine the grammatical structure, we further see that it does not say what the Calvinist *sees*.

Step1 > 'by grace' is a prepositional phrase, this modifies the object. 'are ye saved' | subject + | object. Salvation is the object.

Step2 > 'through faith' can be removed from the sentence and it is still complete. This does not change the object.

Step3 > Prepositional phrase again 'not of yourselves', what is not of ourselves? Next object 'gift of God'.

Step 4 > the object is salvation aka the gift of God aka eternal life. Not faith. As shown in multitudes of other scriptures.

Calvinist - "But that's just a bad English translation. What about the original Greek?"

Going back to the Greek?

This is something I never like to do because I do not speak Greek. However I do have native Greek speaking friends and there are scholars such as Dr William Lane Craig & the New testament scholar A. T. Robertson who do speak Greek and they can confirm the following- "It is very clear from the Greek that Ephesians 2:8-9 is not referring to faith as a gift from God. For the "it" (touto) is neuter in form and cannot refer to "faith" (pistis), which is feminine. The antecedent of "it is the gift of God' is the salvation by grace through faith." **Chosen but Free' Chapter 5 pg. 182**

Everybody Has Faith

Scripture also teaches that God has given all of us a measure of faith. This is obvious I know, we all trust in people, things and sadly in many cases false gods all the time. I can trust that my car will start when I turn the key in the ignition. I can trust in my friends to turn up to my birthday party, or I could trust in a statue of Ganesh to answer my prayers if I was a Hindu. What we trust in for salvation apart from Christ is called in the Bible “faith in dead works” - Hebrews 6:1.

Romans 12:3 ...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

- It is through our faith that we have access to God’s grace, not the other way around:

Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- And Jesus Christ Himself refers to *our* faith saving us:

Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

- As did King David, repeatedly in his Psalms refers to himself putting his trust in the LORD:

Psalm 31 In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

- And consider doubting Thomas who believed *because* he had seen [or Nathanael of John 1:50]:

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

We Choose

Here are some scriptures which refer to us choosing between destruction and life:

Psalm 81:15 The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.

Psalm 119:30 I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have

I laid before me.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Tertullian, Against Marcion Book 11 - "You will find that when He sets before man good and evil, life and death [Deuteronomy 30:15-20], that the entire course of discipline is arranged in precepts by God's calling men from sin, and threatening and exhorting them; and this on no other ground than that man is free with a will, either for obedience or resistance."

Defamation of Character!

This doctrine requires a person, if they hold unconditional election to be true, to either make God a liar when He tells us He wants all men to be saved, or that God is a liar when He tells us many are destroyed in hell. Either way, this doctrine is an attack on God!

A gift is something that can be accepted or rejected. If it is forced upon you it is not a gift it is an act of violence! The Bible teaches us that God wishes for all men to be saved:

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

If God wants all men to be saved, and no condition is placed upon men to be saved, then all men are saved according to this doctrine of Calvinism. But sadly, this is not true:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

What Objection Would a Calvinist Offer?

They will claim that John 15:16 shows unconditional election:

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...

Read this scripture in full and in context for yourself and you will see that this is about Jesus electing His disciples for their ministry.

If you show a Calvinist the abundance of clear scripture showing God wills all men to be saved and ask them why, if their systematic is correct, all men are not saved, they will appeal to either mystery or some secret will of God not revealed in scripture that is contrary to the revealed will in scripture. That is why I say this doctrine makes God a liar.

7. This is the seventh reason I reject reformed theology. Either God lied and does not want all men to be saved, or there is a condition upon men to be saved, after all God is no respecter of persons [Acts 10:34]. We also know that all things were made for God's pleasure [Rev. 4:11] but God does not take pleasure in destroying the wicked [Ezek. 18:32, 33:11], so God clearly did not create some people just to burn them in hell with no hope of salvation.

God has determined that He will place a single condition upon all men for them to become His elect. That condition is that we believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why has God chosen this condition? Because only faith pleases Him:

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And if there is still any doubt that you must believe the gospel before you are God's elect and saved (regenerated/born again) read:

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise



Attacks God's character and is contrary to scripture!

Part 8 - Limited Atonement

This doctrine teaches that Jesus only died to atone for the elect and not for the sins of the whole world. I believe this is a damnable heresy because to teach this will certainly cause people to doubt the all loving nature of our LORD and thus reject Him. God is all loving [John. 3:16 + 1John. 4:16] but He cannot be all loving if He does not love all!

But what scripture can a Calvinist turn to so they can support this absurd doctrine?

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

If I were to state that there were 'many' people in the world would I have miss anybody out? There is no scriptural support for this heresy! Now examine the plentitude of scriptures which explicitly state Christ's atonement was for all:

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than

the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

2 Peter 2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (He even “bought” the false prophets, He bought everybody!)

The most famous verse in the entire Bible is probably John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - I once explained to a Calvinist that this is an invitation to all to have everlasting life by believing on the Son of God. They replied that the “whosoever” of John 3:16 only meant those that were elected to believe (as opposed to elect *because* you believe as scriptures teaches). Here are some synonyms of the word whosoever - everyone, everybody, anybody and anyone.

Mental Gymnastics

Even famous Calvinist **Charles H Spurgeon** recognized the open offer to all to believe and be saved, but he said - “Salvation is like a door with a sign that says “whosoever will may come” which represents the free and universal offer of the gospel. But once one has walked through it, they look back and see a sign that says “predetermined

from eternity passed.”” First Spurgeon states the free offer of salvation is to all, then says this was a trick and calls God a liar [Tit. 1:2X]!

I find that Calvinists are compelled to always offer logical arguments when confronted with clear scriptures which refute their doctrine. I have heard the term ‘double jeopardy’ bandied about and other such gibberish. I cannot entertain the claim of anybody who believes in ‘Limited atonement’ to be a Bible fundamentalist. I lean not on my own limited mind to understand the things of God, but always trust Him - Proverbs 3:5.

Not even John Calvin believed in this unscriptural doctrine, from the Book **‘Chosen But Free’ Appendix 2 pg. 156** - “And the first thing to be attended to is, that so long as we are without Christ and separated from Him, nothing which He suffered and did for the salvation of the human race is of the least benefit to us.” **John Calvin, Institutes 3.1.1**

The author Norman Geisler proceeds to produce another 8 quotations from Calvin regarding the universal and provisional atonement of Christ’s sacrifice.

Universal & Provisional Atonement

The atoning sacrifice is universal 1John. 4:14 (sufficient for every single human being that ever exists) and provisional (it is available to all on condition of faith):

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

We have seen that God promises, and thus controls the outcome of those which seek Him, in that they are led to a saving knowledge of the truth. But we also see in scripture that God also is preventing those which are not seeking Him from being able to learn the truth, for example:

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11 ¹⁰And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie...

God blinds the eyes, stops the ears [Matt. 15:7-14] and prevents those

who have not responded yet to His call so they do not recognize the truth, He uses devils to create lies for people to believe instead [1King. 22:21-23 + 2Chron. 18:21-23] and chooses the delusions of the people that are not seeking Him/Truth/Righteousness [2Corinth. 4:4]:

Isaiah 66:4 I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

Consideration - If limited atonement was true, then when I witness to somebody and tell them that Jesus died for their sins so they could be saved, I would in fact often be telling a lie. So, God's commandment to preach the gospel "how that Christ died for *our* sins" [1Cor. 15:3-4] to every creature [Mark. 16:15] is a command to sin!

Dr James White, Calvinist Pastor, Apologist & Author said - "You can't tell people that God loves them. You can't tell them that they can be saved because Jesus didn't die for them." (*Video from Alpha & Omega ministries website*) ***Calvinism destroys evangelism!***

Gospel Perversion

This is an attack upon the Gospel!

I know Jesus Christ died for my sins and I know I am saved because He died for everybody's sins and everybody includes me. If Jesus did *not* die for everybody then I would have no way of being sure He died for me without looking to some external source for evidence, such as my works or my personal attitude and desires. This would mean I was trusting in myself and my works to know if I was saved, and I would be damned [Eph. 2:8-9X].

This is exactly what Calvinists such as **John MacArthur** teach that you should trust in to know that you are saved, when asked "how can I know I am saved" he replied - "watch for the workings of the Holy Spirit in your life" ***Grace to You website videoed sermon***. He proceeded to explain "If you have a desire to know God, then you are elect" but this would work for a Mormon, a Jehovah witness, or a Muslim. Finally, he continued "We have the Holy Spirit bearing witness with us that we are children of God, that is how we know."

The Bible says we can know we are saved because of God's word [John 6:68], but that is not possible if you believe in Limited Atonement. It forces people to trust in their works, attitudes and

subjective experiences.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. [see also John 20:31]

We must build our faith on the Word of God. Yes we can strengthen our faith with the witness of the Holy Spirit and with the changes and works in our life as we grow, but we should never trust in them but trust completely in God's Word, after all faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God [Rom. 10:17].

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

I once asked a Calvinist (a friend from my local church) how they knew they were elect and they answered "I know I am elect because I am afraid I am not saved, I wouldn't care if I was not elect." This is doubt, the *opposite* of faith!

8. Limited atonement is a damnable heresy. This is the eighth reason why I reject Calvinism.



Makes God unloving,.. "Yay hath God said"

Part 9 - Irresistible Grace

This doctrine of Calvinism teaches that those who God calls cannot resist His will. But the Bible teaches that man *can* resist God's will.

This doctrine rests upon the premise that man cannot seek after God, the Pagan doctrine we have already utterly refuted from scripture.

There is no clear scripture which supports the teaching that God forces, or 'irresistibly' calls people to Himself. Rather He calls all men.

So what scripture might a Calvinist turn to for support on this doctrine, well there aren't any, the best they have is a miracle where Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, this is not teaching about salvation of course, it is just a powerful miracle performed by Christ:

John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

This is just pure confusion and wresting of the scriptures. It is all another mental gymnastics exercise produced from the false doctrine that mankind, being spiritually dead in sins, is unable to respond and believe the gospel, which we have already chewed up and spat out.

Resistible Grace

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Clearly, we can resist God's will. This does not mean that God does not have the power to overcome our will if He chose to do so. It means that God has chosen to allow us to resist His will or accept it.

Irenaeus, The Ante-Nicean Fathers Vol.1 - "This expression 'how often I would have gathered thy children together, and thou would not' [Matthew 23:37] set forth the ancient law of human liberty, because God made man a free agent from the beginning, possessing his own soul to obey the behests of God voluntarily, and not by the compulsion of God."

Reprobates

This doctrine is especially obviously false considering the reprobate doctrine. What is a reprobate in the bible? The word reprobate in English today has its roots in a Latin word meaning 'rejected' as we see in its use in **Jeremiah 6:30** **Reprobate silver shall men call**

them, because the Lord hath rejected them.

Reformed theologians do believe there are reprobates, people that God has rejected, but they apply this status to most of mankind. The difference between the reformed version of the reprobate is that they are born rejected, with no savior. This is horrible, and not true. Rather, people become rejected after they first reject God.

Let us examine the scriptures and see who these reprobates really are:

1. Reprobates are not 'born that way' but become rejected by God because they resist and reject Him.

Hebrews 6:4-6 ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

2. We clearly see that these people understood the Gospel but rejected it and it was as though they put Christ to an open shame, and now it is impossible to renew them to repentance. These people *cannot* be saved!

2 Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

3. These people are given up by God, and we will see in the next passage they can exhibited unnatural behaviors which are not common to man [1Corinth. 10:13]:

Romans 1:18-32 ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, *who hold the truth in unrighteousness*;¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:²¹ *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful*; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and

creeping things.²⁴ *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves;*²⁵ *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*²⁶ *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature;*²⁷ *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*²⁹ *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*³⁰ *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*³¹ *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful;*³² *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

4. We see that the cause for God to give them up is that they rejected the truth of God. We see that they are given over to a reprobate mind, and now they exhibited perverted behaviors and are filled with **all** unrighteousness. This shows us that not all people are reprobates, most of us are not tempted with these unnatural lusts. We can see more scriptures about how their mind is changed:

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (See also Ephesians 4:18-19 they are “past feeling”)

Titus 1:15-16 ¹⁵ Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

5. We see once again they are rejected concerning the faith, that they first resisted the truth and that their mind has been

changed and their conscience seared. I believe these explain psychopaths and perverts with unnatural desires to go after strange flesh. And finally, these people are referred to in the bible as the children of the Devil:

Jesus speaking to the Pharisees

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.



Notice the progression

John 8:44-45 ⁴⁴Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.⁴⁵ And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.



Now their hearts are hardened because they first resisted. Why would God need to harden their hearts if they were born reprobate and could never believe? This is a judgement by God. He has judicially hardened their hearts, and now they are children of the Devil:

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

These reprobates are mentioned all throughout the scriptures. From Genesis 3:15 “seed of the serpent” to Genesis 19 + Judges 19 & the murderous, rapist Sodomites. They are called children of Belial (another name for the Devil) in Deuteronomy 13.

We see that they have unnatural desires towards the same sex in Romans 1 and they are worthy of death (see also Leviticus 20:13). They also have unnatural desires towards children as we see in 2Peter 2, which also says some are false prophets (as we see sadly too often, especially in the apostate cults such as the Catholic Church, these predators harm children).

Romans 1 says they are filled with **all** unrighteousness, and so we see

in Micah 3:2-4 that cannibals are reprobates. And we see in Leviticus 18 that they will even lie with animals.

To summarize, a certain group of people that live among us have resisted God's grace to the point that God has "given them over" and they can no longer be saved. These are dangerous, vile people that in some instances even try to sneak into churches and teach lies and abuse children. These are children of the devil, and this disproves irresistible grace completely.

Proverbs 1:24-28 ²⁴ Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;²⁵ But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;²⁷ When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.²⁸ Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me

[Additionally, people who blaspheme the Holy Ghost become reprobate - Matt 12:31, or who take the mark of the beast - Rev 14:9-11, and people who alter God's word become reprobate - Rev 22:19.]

God's Grace is Available to All

The Bible says that God's Grace is available to all:

Psalms 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men

Romans 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

9. Finally, if this doctrine were true, much like unconditional election, then either God lied about wanting to save all men or everybody is going to be saved. We already know that sadly most people will not be saved [Rev. 21:8] and that God cannot lie [Tit. 1:2], & He is not trying to confuse us [1Cor. 14:33], thus this is the ninth reason I reject reformed theology.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some

men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance
Clement of Rome, The Ante-Nicean Fathers Vol.8 [*Clement of Philippians 4:3*] - “Free-Will was given because he who is good by his own choice is really good; but he who is made good by another under necessity is not really good, because he is not what he is by his own choice... It is therefore in the power of everyone, since man has been made possessed of free-will, to *hear* us to life or the demons to destruction.”



Makes God a liar and is completely unbiblical

Part 10 - Perseverance of the Saints

Perseverance of the Saints truly and correctly affirms that those who believe on the LORD Jesus Christ receive eternal life that moment and are sealed until the day of redemption [Ephesians 1:13-14]. Children of God cannot lose their eternal life! To this I say amen.

This doctrine also teaches, however, that saved believers do not lose their faith, backslide into a sinful/worldly lifestyle, are not carnal but always grow in grace and knowledge of our savior and become fruitful servants of the Kingdom of God. This, I wish were true, however this is not scriptural. This comes from the faulty doctrine that our faith was some special 'living faith' which God gave to us, and that of course we have already refuted.

We should grow spiritually and do good works and bear fruit for God; indeed, we are very often encouraged to do so in scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Of course, all these scriptures are redundant if this is automatic.

• Backsliding

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

An example in scripture is Demas, who in Paul's epistle to the Philippians is called a fellow laborer, but later is choked up by the cares of the world [Mark 4:19].

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...

See also Samuel whom God anointed King of Israel and who had the Holy Spirit come upon him more than any other person in the Old Testament, completely fell away and became an enemy of God, but these people are still saved [1 Samuel 28:16-19].

• Carnal Christians

Calvinist **Paul Washer** says - "There is no such thing as a 'carnal Christian'... the doctrine of the carnal Christian has sent more people to hell than you can imagine."

Firstly, Paul Washer, you believe God has already chosen people to go to hell so gibberish! It is hard to be consistent with an incorrect worldview.

Secondly, to say that a carnal Christian does not exist is to deny clear scripture, Paul calls the congregation in Corinth "Brethren" and "carnal" in the same line, and calls himself carnal [Rom. 7:14]:

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Consider that scripture refers to people who forsake church, which would not make sense if they were not believers, church isn't for

them. This means there are Christians which do not go to church:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

• Struggling in the Faith

Some examples from scripture are John the Baptist, who is the greatest man born of women [Matt. 11:3] who's faith was shaken when he was imprisoned by Herod. See also:

2 Timothy 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

But if we lose faith we are still saved:

2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself

These people still have the Holy Spirit bearing witness with them [Romans 8:16], and He will work to restore them. However if these people do not walk in the spirit, and do not have fellowship with other Christians [Proverbs 27:17], and thus do not read their Bible which is their spiritual food [Matthew 4:4], they will not grow and they will remain spiritual babes [1 Cor. 3:1].

I do not believe however that they would deny that Jesus Christ is God, or the Son of God, or become for example a Muslim or an Atheist. But that they can seriously and cripplingly doubt their own salvation.

• Being Unfruitful

And there are scriptures that teach us that we can have fruitless lives as Christians. Most Christians are unfruitful, after all, bearing fruit for God is to convert people to Christ [Prov. 11:30, Matt. 13:8 + Mark. 4:20]. People often think the fruits of the Holy Spirit are their fruit, but read Galatians 5:22-23 again and realize, they are His fruits, not yours! If you were following Christ (a true disciple) you would be a fisher of men [Matt. 4:19]. Most Christians, being honest with themselves are *not* fishers of men. Christ taught as much in the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13:21-23, Mark 4:16-20 & Luke 8:13-15.

John 15:1-2 ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Christ also taught in the parable of the sower that fruitful Christians bring forth 30 - 100 converts a year (as fruit is annual). How many of us can honestly say we are fruitful? I fear Christians today have set the bar way too low in their Christian walks.

Matthew 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Most Christians do not evangelize anybody in their lives. We can do a simple calculation to demonstrate this. If there were one Christian in the world today and they brought forth just one new Christian each year, and each one thereafter did the same, the whole world would be converted in a single lifetime.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

And finally, to prove this, the Bible teaches us that there will be people who go to heaven who have no rewards, but they themselves are preserved:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The Dangers

Teaching people that they will always 'persevere' is damaging to their faith, especially when they stumble. This doctrine has the reverse effect than what it claims to do. It does not give people any assurance. If you have to wait until the end of your life to look back and see that

you ‘persevered’ then you don’t have any present security and you could even be causing these people to be trusting in their own selves and works.

This is backdoor works salvation. The Devil is subtle - Genesis 3:1.

We must be careful of preaching a false Gospel when souls are in the balance. It is dangerous to teach that the elect are predestined because then why is there any need to worry about evangelizing, or care about false prophets, or care about the details of our doctrines if it is all fixed and determined. This whole system of theology is diabolical!

Most Calvinists who believe this doctrine teach something called Lordship salvation. In the words of famous Calvinist pastor **John Piper (Book, Desiring God)**: “These are just some of the conditions the New Testament says we must meet in order to be saved in the fullest and final sense. We must believe in Jesus and receive him and turn from our sin and obey him and humble ourselves like little children and love him more than we love our family, our possessions, or our own life.”

So much for faith alone.

Those who do not teach Lordship salvation, the most hardcore works salvation I have ever heard, will teach at least a repent of sins + faith gospel. They will claim that God grants this repentance as He does the faith. Important to note there is not one scripture in the Bible that tells us we must repent “of our sins” to be saved (spiritually, not temporally). The Gospel of John does not even contain the word repent. But if God is effectually causing both faith and repentance from sin after regeneration (salvation by unconditional election) then all the scriptures we have read contrasting faith with works are wrong, because faith is a work and is always accompanied by works.

Let me break this down very simply.

- 1) . Sin is the transgression of the law [John 3:4]
- 2) . Therefore, turning from sin is keeping the law [Galatians 2:16]
- 3) . Turning from sin is works [Jonah 3:10]

To teach that repenting from sins + faith is required for salvation is a false gospel and those that teach it are accursed [Galatians 1:8-9]. Repent does not automatically include sin in its definition, else we

would be in trouble having to explain why the word is most regularly used regarding the LORD.

Think about this logically. When somebody first believes, they cannot even know all their sins. And nobody has ever turned from all their sins [1John 1:8]. Repenting from sins is a daily fight we do as Christians after Justification (salvation) and this is called Sanctification.

Matthew 7:22-23 ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

What Objection Would a Calvinist Offer?

They misunderstand James Chapter 2, particularly **James 2:14** **What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?**

First, I would like to point out that this passage of scripture is referring to physical salvation, not spiritual. When you continue reading James talks about food and clothing, we do not need these to go to heaven:

James 2:15-17 ¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

If I said a cat without a pulse is a dead cat, would that mean there was no cat? Of course not! So faith (cat) without works (pulse) means there is such a thing as faith without works, derr! This passage is teaching us that people can have faith, and not have works, the opposite of this 'perseverance' doctrine. Remember it is faith alone in Christ alone that saves us, not works right?

So, what does James mean when he says their faith 'is dead'? Just continue reading...

James 2:20-21 ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Abraham was justified before God by faith alone: **Romans 4:1-3**

¹What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?² For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.³ For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

So, who was James telling us Abraham was justified by works before? He was justified by works before men. And so, we are also, showing our faith is true before men by our works. That is the lesson from this scripture, James is teaching us to work out our salvation in our lives to be fruitful and beneficial to others [Philippians 2:12]. This is a redundant doctrine if faith always produced works, and the statement “faith without works” means there is such a thing. The very proof text a Calvinist uses debunks their doctrine. This is what happens when you have no spiritual discernment.

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Just like Ephesians 2, the Calvinist has flipped the meaning completely in the scriptures. Such is the severity of the wresting of passages - 2Peter 3:16.

Walking in the Spirit & Working Hard for God!

We absolutely should be careful to grow in our faith:

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

We should clean up our lives and live holy and separate:

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

We should do good works and preach the Gospel to the lost:

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

(Note that we need to 'be careful' to maintain good works, not that they will just automatically come)

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

10. Good works, spiritual growth, bearing fruit and even church attendance are not automatic after we believe, as demonstrated by scripture and by looking out the window and at Christians every day. Calvinists condemn themselves teaching people they are required to meet these standards set forth by Christ as a fruitful Christian, because none of them measure up [Matthew 23:3]. This is the last reason I reject reformed theology.

Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.



CONCLUSION

In summary, reformed theology is Pagan, subtly deceptive and appealing to intellectual pride (Gnosticism). It is a giant dose of leaven. It wrests scripture and perverts the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It makes Faith an evidence of salvation rather than the only condition. And then adds works as evidence also. Making faith and works the same & making a mockery of Paul's exhaustive writings to the contrary.

You must have both the right salvation and the right savior. You cannot have faith alone in Buddha any more than you can have works of the law for Christ. Calvinism has a different salvation (soteriology) and a different savior (limited) than Jesus Christ the savior of the whole world.

Calvinism deforms God's character, puts people off the God of the Bible, calls God a liar, unjust, unloving, and ultimately twists the LORD into a manmade monster worse than Satan himself. A baby burning, arbitrary, sadistic creator that makes puppets for Himself to dance around, forcing some to dance to His beat and rejecting others with no hope of salvation.

This heresy kills evangelism and will send people to hell.

T. - Makes God Unjust

U. - Makes God A Liar

L. - Makes God Unloving

I. - Makes God A Liar

P. - Makes Salvation By Works

THIS CONCLUDES SECTION TWO - DOCTRINES AND SUMMARY & THE LAST 5 REASONS I REJECT REFORMED THEOLOGY

www.mattyjohn146.com

mattyjohn14.6@mail.com

Testimonials and responses:

I felt like this was directed straight at me. That is exactly how I have been feeling for about a year. Everything has been darkness, as I believed the One who is supposed to be the light of the world was refusing to shine on people. I was wishing I had never been born into this accursed world. Hopeless for those lost, and like the person who needs to be convinced to save people is God himself. For a year, I've been praying to God as though He is the enemy of mankind who just can't be bothered to stop people from walking off the edge into the pit of Hell. The emphasis on 'predestination' has deeply wounded my ability to love Him at even the most basic level. I've even hated God for creating us, and especially me. I certainly didn't want to spend eternity with Him, but I also didn't want to be in Hell either, so I was left cursing my own existence. Now I just wonder how long it will take for the Truth to heal my calloused heart. Bless you for posting this.

Mr Jason Weaver, former Calvinist - Fort Lauderdale Baptist Church, USA

“Calvinism has caused massive problems within our assembly of believers, and it has also touched my family on a very personal level - to the point that my children question the truth of scripture and the love of the LORD our God. In the universities atheist professors use the precepts of Calvinism to destroy the faith of their students in a loving God. Calvinism literally validates the atheists grumbling against God, and Calvinism also is a closer mirror to the Muslim God Allah. I have encountered this argument numerous times in the ministry. Calvinism's god is not the God of Holy Scripture... I reject both philosophy ism's of Calvinism and Arminianism.”

Thomas Dickerson - Springfield Baptist Church, Atlanta USA

“Imagine on the day of judgement billions of souls rebuking God saying, “I was unloved by my creator with no savior and no hope!””

Renata Mileske, former Calvinist -St. Edmunds Presbyterian Church,
Bury UK